

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property right or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A bracket for pivotally mounting a handle adjacent an opening of a vehicle comprising:

a handle receiving portion adapted to receive an end of the handle therein, said handle receiving portion being configured to retain the end of the handle such that the handle is in an in use position or a stored position;

5 a pivot pin for pivotally mounting the end of the handle at said handle receiving portion, said pivot pin including a biasing member to bias the handle at either the in use position or the stored position relative to said handle receiving portion, said pivot pin extending downward from said handle receiving portion; and

10 at least one mounting aperture, said at least one mounting aperture being accessible for securing said bracket to a surface of the vehicle adjacent the opening when said pivot pin and the handle are assembled to said bracket.

2. The handle of claim 1, wherein said at least one mounting aperture is offset relative to said pivot pin.

3. The handle of claim 2, wherein said handle receiving portion is offset toward one side from a centerline of said bracket and said at least one mounting aperture is offset toward the other side from said centerline of said bracket, thereby providing clearance and access to said at least one mounting aperture for securing said bracket to the surface of the vehicle.

4. The handle of claim 1, wherein said at least one mounting aperture is positioned below said handle receiving portion.

5. A method for installing a foldaway hand rail to a surface of a vehicle comprising:

assembling a hand rail to at least one bracket, such that said hand rail is selectively positionable in first and second positions relative to said at least one bracket;

5 mounting said at least one bracket to the surface of the vehicle after said hand rail is attached to said at least one bracket.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said hand rail is selectively pivotable between said first and second positions.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one bracket comprises a pair of brackets.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein assembling said hand rail to said pair of brackets includes assembling said hand rail to said pair of brackets with a pivot pin extending through an end of said hand rail at each of said pair of brackets.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein mounting said brackets to the surface of the vehicle includes mounting each of said brackets to the surface of the vehicle with at least one fastener inserted through at least one mounting aperture in said bracket, said at least one mounting aperture being offset from said pivot pin.
10. The method of claim 5, wherein said at least one bracket includes a receiving portion for receiving an end of said hand rail, said receiving portion being offset toward one side of said at least one bracket, said at least one bracket including at least one mounting aperture offset toward the other side of said at least one bracket.
11. A handle assembly for mounting to a surface of a vehicle comprising:
  - a hand rail having opposite ends;
  - a pair of brackets for pivotally receiving respective opposite ends of said hand rail, said hand rail being pivotable between first and second positions relative to said brackets,
  - 5 each of said pair of brackets comprising at least one mounting aperture through said bracket for receiving a fastener therethrough for mounting said bracket to the surface of the vehicle;
  - and
  - 10 a pair of pivot pins which pivotally retain said hand rail to said brackets, wherein said at least one aperture of at least one of said brackets is offset from said pivot pin and accessible to mount said at least one of said brackets to the surface of the vehicle when said hand rail and said pivot pin are assembled to said at least one of said brackets.
12. The handle assembly of claim 11, wherein said at least one mounting aperture is offset toward one side of said bracket from a centerline of said bracket and said pivot pin is offset toward the other side of said bracket from said centerline of said bracket.

13. The handle assembly of claim 11, wherein said pivot pin includes a biasing member for biasing said handrail into each of said first and second positions.

14. The handle assembly of claim 11, wherein said at least one of said brackets comprises first and second walls extending therefrom, said at least one mounting aperture of said at least one of said brackets being nearer said first wall than said second wall, said pivot pin of said at least one of said brackets being nearer said second wall than said first wall.

15. A handrail and bracket assembly, including:

a rail; and

a bracket, including:

a base;

5 first and second walls extending from the base;

at least one mounting hole in the base, the mounting hole located nearer one of the walls than the other wall; and

a channel for receiving the rail, the axis of the channel located nearer one of the walls than the other wall.

16. A handrail and bracket assembly, including:

a rail; and

a bracket including:

a base;

5 a first wall extending from the base;

a second wall extending from the base, the second wall being parallel to the first wall;

at least one mounting hole located in the base, between the first and second walls, the mounting hole being located nearer the first wall than the second wall;

10 a first channel for retaining the rail in the first position, the first channel having a central, longitudinal axis located between the first and second walls and nearer the second wall than the first wall; and

a second channel for retaining the rail in a second position, the second channel having a central, longitudinal axis perpendicular to the central, longitudinal axis of the first channel.

17. A handrail and bracket assembly, including:
- a rail; and
  - a bracket including:
    - a base;

5        a first wall extending from the base and perpendicular thereto;

      a second wall extending from the base and perpendicular thereto;

      first means for retaining the rail in a first position between the first and second walls such that the rail extends parallel to the first and second walls and is located nearer the first wall than the second wall;

10        second means for retaining the rail in a second position such that the rail extends perpendicular to the first and second walls; and

      at least one mounting hole in the base, the mounting hole being located nearer the second wall than the first wall.